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BULLETIN X4

The Economic and Social Status of Rural Negro Families in Maryland

By

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COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
AUGUST, 1948

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics,
Extension Service, University of Maryland, and United
States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating.

T. B. SYMONS, Director

(Distributed in Furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914)

FOREWORD

The Maryland Extension service desires to build a more adequate extension program for Negroes in the State. To do this it is necessary to get basic facts on how they live and their needs. To secure this information the University of Maryland Experiment Station and Extension Service have cooperated in making this study.

An adequate extension program must meet the needs of rural people at all social and economic levels, as well as the needs of both rural non-farm and farm families. In planning the study it was agreed to secure data on tenure, size of holdings, amount of food produced for family consumption, income, adequacy of buildings, condition of the dwelling, home facilities and living conditions, size and composition of families, participation in community organizations and the formal education of parents.

The authors have also included background material to show cultural differences, population changes and notable contributions of Maryland Negroes.

This bulletin gives the results of a study of 2,000 rural Negro families with a view to obtaining information on their economic and social status.

Appreciation is acknowledged of the financial assistance given by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation in making this study.

W. B. KEMP, *Director, Experiment Station*

T. B. SYMONS, *Director, Extension Service*

August, 1948

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The Economic and Social Status of Rural Negro Families in Maryland

By

A. B. HAMILTON AND C. K. MCGEE*

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Any study pertaining to the economic and social status of the American Negro may easily lead to erroneous conclusions. To avoid this, it is necessary to recognize the many factors involved in the situation in its entirety; and second, to set up standards, which may be used as yardsticks by which these factors may be measured.

In a discussion of farm and rural non-farm types, statistics as to tenure, size and value of holdings, living conditions, migrations, etc., do but add to already existing information about the life among Negroes. They are not nearly enough. They are accepted as facts, or indices; but what is needed to complete the picture is an understanding and an interpretation of these facts. There-

fore, this bulletin gives the background of physical and human resources as well as the analysis of the records taken on Negro families.

Behind the Negro are memories, aims, hopes, strivings, yearnings and inspirations not easily understood, in many cases, even by the individual himself; much less by the civilization of which he finds himself a part. He is so bound with the modes, the customs, folk-lore and traditions of the group that the behavior of the individual can be understood only when considered in relation to the entire group.

It is necessary to examine cultural differences within the racial group. These have been recognized by few, and the internal segregative processes therefrom, combined with the misunderstood conception of the group by outsiders, plainly show how involved the whole situation has become. Only an understanding of such factors can make any study intelligible.

Issues affecting Negro population, its size and distribution within the State, its growth or decline, rates of

*Acknowledgment: The authors wish to express their appreciation to Dr. S. H. DeVault and Luther Bohanan of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, University of Maryland, to M. G. Bailey and Ethel Bianchi, Extension Service, University of Maryland; to the field supervisors and enumerators who collected the data; and to the families who supplied the data which made this study possible.

migration, distribution of Negroes among occupations, educational status, contribution and characteristics of housing, are most important and must be considered.

A correct interpretation of any such data must include a recognition of cultural differences within the racial group; and a realization that these differences have produced segregative processes within the group. These differentiations, while clearly recognized within the group, are seldom understood by others.

Scope of Study

This study had its origin in the desire of the University of Maryland to build an adequate extension program in agriculture and home economics for Negroes in the State. It was early recognized that the group's needs and opportunities must be considered in relation to their specific characteristics; therefore, agents were employed to work among Negroes. Even with these agents there was still a great need for basic information. This need was likewise recognized by other agencies who offered valuable cooperation. These agencies were The General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, which contributed financial assistance; the University of Maryland Extension Service; and the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, and Negro institutions of the State.

Accordingly, an attempt has been made to obtain factual information on the following: The extent to which social and economic facilities

exist for Negroes in rural communities; the accessibility of these facilities to farm and rural non-farm people; the amount and quality of services offered; the rural individual's awareness of, and attitude toward, that which is provided; and the extent of his conscious desire for better conditions.

Method of Procedure

The survey covered two specific regions of the State. "Wells were sunk," so to speak, in five counties of Southern Maryland, namely: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's; in Montgomery County and in seven counties on the Eastern Shore, as follows: Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester. These areas were chosen because of the greatest concentration of Negro families.

Access was made to records and publications of the U. S. Bureau of the Census, State Department of Health, Department of Education, State Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, and offices of local county assessors.

According to the 1940 U. S. Census, Negroes accounted for 17 per cent of the population of Maryland. However, in Southern Maryland they represented 25 percent; and in the Lower Eastern Shore area, 28 percent of the total population. Most of the Negroes of these regions lived in rural areas; in Southern Maryland, 91 percent, and in the lower Eastern Shore, 77 percent of the Ne-

gro population was classified as rural in 1940.

Although the study was confined primarily to rural farm and non-farm families, some records were taken in such cities as Denton, Cambridge, etc., where the Negro districts of the town showed characteristics similar to rural areas.

The predominant occupational activities of the regions studied comprised diversified farming, truck crop production, tobacco farming, poultry production, water trades and farm and domestic labor.

Data were obtained from approximately 2,000 families, the records being equally divided between farm and rural non-farm families. To take the schedules, 38 Negro workers were employed. These enumerators were given areas in their own communities, whenever possible, where they made house-to-house visits explaining the investigation with a view to obtaining intelligent cooperation. Families and farms were chosen carefully from all levels so that the pattern presented is a cross section of the group.

In an effort to acquaint the public with what was being done, open meetings were held in Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore before the enumerators were selected, to explain the study to rural leaders. These meetings were well attended by ministers, school teachers, officers of Negro organizations, and Federal and State persons working in the area.

Conferences were held with many

agencies in developing the schedule and investigative procedure. To assist in the study, five other persons working with Negroes in Maryland were selected as consultants.¹

The 2,000 schedules were arranged, numbered, coded, classified qualitatively and quantitatively in many patterns of statistics. These facts and their interpretation are presented in this report.

Limitations of Study

There was some limitation of the analysis of conditions and problems, due to little or no published data on the subject. Aside from statistics gathered in the survey, much of the material was gleaned from field investigations in churches, schools, and public meetings. In fact, the information herein presented was derived from a variety of sources. It shows the economic and social contrasts in the different sections of the State studied, and the important trends that must be recognized in the building of a program.

The fact that the general public has failed to realize that the mere presentation of this type of data does not carry with it any definite promise of solution, was seen in the most recurrent question put to workers on the survey, namely:

¹W. E. Henry, Jr., President, Bowie State Teachers College; J. A. Oliver, Professor of Agriculture and Education, Princess Anne College; Ethel Bianchi, Local Home Demonstration Agent, Extension Service, University of Maryland; Father Horace McKenna, Cardinal Gibbons Institute, Ridge; and Reverend Richard Johnson, Methodist Minister, St. Inigoes, Maryland.

What will be done about the Negro after all this information has been gathered? It should be understood that this survey, like other research projects, offers nothing tangible. In-

stead, it can only provide a basis, a possible springboard for future economic and social planning; but the planning itself is wholly without the range of these data.

DEVELOPMENT OF EXTENSION WORK IN MARYLAND AMONG NEGROES

Before going into development of Extension Work among Negroes in Maryland, it is well to understand what is meant by this movement.

Rural people were found to be generally misinformed as to the function of the county agent. Many were prone to think that his traditional job of diffusing useful information on subjects connected with agriculture was his sole duty. Rather, this was only a part. In its broadest sense, the work of the Extension Service is to "improve living conditions." For example: The county agent is not a doctor; but recognizing the basic importance of health in his program, he immediately reports any condition affecting his client's health adversely to the necessary officials and specialists in this field, and cooperates with them. He is not a teacher, as such; but his work begins where that of the formal class-room ends; and at no point in the life of the community is his influence not felt.

The State has been aware of the importance of education, and has provided schools to take care of the elementary, scientific, professional and vocational training of its youth and citizens in general; but the need for a system of extended education

for farmers and homemakers as well as farm boys and girls only became apparent in more recent years. This need was met by the appointment of "County Agents," and "Home" Demonstration Agents" of the Extension Service, who hold positions analogous to the school teacher in the Department of Education, and form connecting links between farm people, State agencies and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This agricultural education among Negroes in Maryland, sponsored by the University of Maryland, was begun soon after the establishment of the Extension Service. In March 1917, the first Negro agent was employed in Maryland to work in three counties on the Eastern Shore, namely, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester. In August of that same year, a second agent was appointed to do similar work in Prince George's County. Later, the work in Southern Maryland was extended to include the four adjoining counties: Charles, Calvert, Anne Arundel and St. Mary's.

It is impossible to grasp the significance of this movement or to thoroughly appreciate what it meant to the group without some knowledge of the agricultural, social and

economic status of the Negro at that time. Three decades in the life of an individual, a family, a community, a group, can bring many changes. A war had made increased production a necessity; and there was an awakening, a gradual realization that perhaps, after all, there was more to the business of growing things than merely putting seeds in the ground in season, watering them and later gathering in the harvest. The more advanced Maryland farmer, ambitious for his children, became aware of the work being done in State agricultural colleges for Negroes, which was just beginning to get a foothold. The U. S. Department of Agriculture Year Book for 1921 stated: "The work among the Negroes has had very useful results in improving both agricultural and race relations, but it is at present reaching only a small fraction of the Negro farm population. It should be extended more rapidly."

The Agricultural Year Book states that as of January 1, 1920, in Maryland there were 3,549 farms operated by Negro owners; and 2,509 farms operated by Negro tenants and croppers.

The school system was destined to be the point of entry for this work. The first two agents were both educators. Louis H. Martin was vocational agriculture teacher at Princess Anne Academy, and James F. Armstrong started as a supervisor in Prince George's County schools and later became an agent of the Maryland Extension Service. Records

show that both of these agents, working in different sections, among entirely different types presenting different problems, had a common goal. The initial approach on the Eastern Shore coincided with a hog disease epidemic while Southern Maryland at the same time presented such challenging social problems that a foundation had to be laid upon which to build the framework for future extension service work.

To state that types of soil produce different types of individuals may be subject to question; but in Maryland one is almost forced to the conclusion that the type of soil is to a great extent the yardstick for measuring one's inherent capacities, which are reflected in his standard and mode of living. The new-comer senses at the very beginning a difference in the attitude of the Negro populace of the Eastern and Western Shores. Even more marked than this, however, is the difference in the Upper and Lower Eastern Shore people. One's curiosity is immediately aroused, and as he travels among the people; what once was only a vague theory grows into an indisputable fact. These people are so unlike that one could well suppose he had crossed into another state. The reason for it is an elusive thing, and it is only after much observation, thought, study and discussion that the underlying currents take definite shape.

The Upper Shore, with its heavier type of soil, produces an abundance of grain and dairy cattle. The large

farms necessitate expensive machinery. The would-be farmer must have more capital to begin with. Negroes are fewer in number in this region and owners are still fewer. Moneyed "outsiders" have come in, often bringing their own Negro labor. The natives have changed with the environment; wages are better, opportunities are more numerous, tenants have better returns in every way, and public and civic relationships are better.

The Lower Shore, with its sandy soil, does not need machinery to pick the beans, the tomatoes, the cucumbers, the strawberries. Negroes are more numerous, the population tends to multiply as the output is lessened. Commercial truck crops and poultry are in abundance. The farms are smaller; less capital is needed for an initial outlay and the individual is tradition-bound. Often the Negro owner states with some pride that he is on the same farm given his grand-parents by a white wellwisher or former owner. Outsiders are frowned upon, and there remains a group within a group, with ineradicable lines of demarcation between, forever separating them, but still bound together by unbreakable bonds.

In the case of Mr. Martin, the step from vocational agriculture teacher to county agent was natural, and it is no surprise that extension work on the Shore got off to a good start. In 1917, an important agricultural problem was "hog raising." Cholera was raging on practically every farm.

Growers were discouraged, and it is said that 75 percent of them had given up because of the epidemic. Mr. Martin described it as follows:

"When a prominent man on the Eastern Shore, whose hobby was hog-raising, called the agent at his office to learn if the Government had found a cure for cholera, he was advised that while there was no cure, as yet, he might do well to try out a new preventive serum. Farmers watched this experiment closely. That 90 percent of them were Doubting Thomases is evidenced by the fact that although the inoculated hogs came through successfully, only 10 percent of the farmers requested treatment the next year. The remainder fell into two classes; one class doubting the preventive power of the serum, and the other expecting the Lord, without any aid on their part, to save their hogs. Non-treated hogs continued to die, and hundreds of pounds of pork were carried out of pens and pastures each day due to this disease. Experiments with the serum repeatedly proved the serum's worth, and the old adage (an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure) was suddenly realized. Thus, the first task was successfully accomplished. The concensus was that "if the Government does not do anything else to assist the farmers than putting in trained extension workers to prevent hog cholera, it is worth every penny put into it for 25 years."

Mr. Martin says of this experiment, "That whereas 25 years ago

the farmers and the hog raisers were discouraged and hog raising practically hopeless, today 88 percent of the growers are grateful to our Government for this life saver."

A balanced extension program necessarily included services to farm and rural women; to meet this need Miss Edna E. Thomas was employed to work with the women on the Eastern Shore. Of some significance, too is the fact that Miss Thomas likewise came from the school system, having been an instructor in Domestic Art.

For some time she was employed to increase the number of contacts with farm families, and a special effort was made to bring the men's and women's programs closer together, thereby enabling the agents to serve the whole family more effectively.

In Southern Maryland the extension work for Negroes got under way with James F. Armstrong as its leader. Coming, as he did, from the public school system, it was natural that the many young people who had known him were soon banded together in what might be called pre-mature 4-H Clubs. It was the children who unconsciously carried this agent into every community but, paradoxically, not as an agricultural expert. That was to come later.

The tobacco farmer of that day apparently had not recognized a need for assistance with his crops. As a matter of fact, for anyone to tell him how to run his farm and plant his tobacco was regarded as

most unwelcome criticism. Also, the belief that a former teacher, one of a specially privileged group, could not possibly know anything about farming was too strong to be easily overcome. This individual was the person to help them with their children; to help with health, educational or political campaigns; but to tell them how to farm—NEVER!

In Mr. Armstrong, they had a man wise enough to understand that people must necessarily be helped on their own level; in other words, you cannot offer a hungry man an education. Fill his stomach, and later on he may grow up to a desire for such things. Tuskegee born, and educated, Mr. Armstrong was at home in this field. Frequently, there is a gap between the educated Negro and the farm and laboring group; but this agent was so constituted that he was at home with rural folk as he was with the most enlightened. He spoke a common language, and his sincerity, forthrightness, and stick-to-it-ness was what was eventually to carry him to the people.

His favorite characteristic strategy was to get one rooster and one pullet for the girls and boys in his club and instruct them how to raise them. His county picnics, the fore-runner of the County Fair, were the events of the year and frequently one of Mr. Armstrong's youth groups won the prize. And what prizes they were!—always calculated to spur the boys and girls on to win the next year.

Hearing his praises so sung by the

adolescents, it was impossible for the parents to hold out forever, and soon hints were dropped, via the children, that "things are changing, farms should be producing more and better crops. Mr. Armstrong knows of a farm in another state that had the same disease in tobacco that we have, and he knows how to cure it," etc. It was only necessary for one demonstration to prove successful. The least that can be said of Mr. Armstrong was that he laid a foundation for Negro extension work in Southern Maryland.

While it has not been possible to provide as many Negro Agents as white agents in proportion to farm population of Negroes and whites in certain areas, it has been understood thoroughly that the white county agents and home demonstration agents would serve all the people, irrespective of race. It is obvious that in certain areas specific Negro workers were needed, and from early

days in extension work Negro agents were employed, although limited funds prevented expanding this work as much as the Service desired.

At the beginning of 1948 the Maryland Extension Service had nine Negro workers. In addition to a district agent, two men local agents and a woman, as local home demonstration agents, were assigned to the Eastern Shore; and three men and two women worked in Southern Maryland.

The office on the Eastern Shore is located in the State College at Princess Anne, where farmers and agricultural teachers throughout the area draw upon it. The home demonstration agent directs much of the local canning and women's activities, and more and more these effects are felt in the homes, in the schools and in the communities. Within the past year, two well-staffed offices have been opened in the farming section of Southern Maryland.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The State of Maryland is distinctly cut by the Chesapeake Bay, a wide arm of the Atlantic, into Eastern and Western Shore parts; each having agricultural, social, economic and industrial individuality.

Southern Maryland, on the Western Shore, is part of the Atlantic Coastal plain, with its elevation running from sea level to approximately 200 feet above. With its mild, humid climate and long summers, it has become almost synonymous with "tobacco land." Over 40 percent of

the land area of this region is composed of the type of soil best fitted for the production of Maryland-type tobacco. This is a fine, sandy loam soil with loose surface, which will not clod when wet, nor harden when dry. Its subsoil holds precipitation and plant-food while still permitting sufficient aeration. While such a type of soil produces the desired grade of tobacco, this crop has been grown to some extent also in all the soil types of the area.

Soil types in Southern Maryland

vary from fine loam to gravelly, marsh, swamp or meadow type. The average rural Negro, however, is also familiar with a coarse-textured soil which is better adapted for vine crops, such as sweet potatoes, cucumbers and melons. These crops are grown primarily for home use.

Despite various industries brought in by two wars and the water trades, which have recently gained lucrative importance, agriculture in this area remains the principal commercial activity; and tobacco, which became the medium of exchange even for clothing, taxes and food in Colonial times, still survives as the principal money-crop. Approximately 30 million pounds of tobacco are produced annually. All other crops raised are, for the most part, for local consumption.

The Eastern Shore, with its colorful history of sinkings and risings, fantastic shore-lines, islands, seventeen rivers, bays, creeks, sounds, and straits, has varied types of soils. However, two types predominate.

The soil of the lower counties is mostly of the "Norfolk Sand," with a coarse, medium-brown surface averaging eight inches on a subsoil of friable orange-yellow sand several feet thick. It is best suited to quick-growing vegetables and melons.

On the Upper Shore, where the topography varies from flat to gently rolling, the soil is well-drained and predominantly similar to the Sassafras Series—a sandy loam averaging ten inches on a heavy reddish-yellow loam subsoil three to six feet thick.

This is a rich soil and well suited to the production of corn, wheat, hay, tomatoes, and soybeans.

Agriculture of the Eastern Shore consists of truck crops and general farming, with dairying and poultry production. Tomatoes, beans, cantaloupes and watermelons are the chief vegetable crops. This area is also one of the few centers in Maryland where green-wrapped tomatoes are sold. Strawberries, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes are grown commercially.

Poultry production on the Lower Shore has sky-rocketed from two million head of broilers in 1934 to over 28 million head in 1945. The light soils limit the production of grass, therefore hay-consuming livestock have not increased as rapidly in this area as in other parts of the State.

Sea food on the Eastern Shore is a natural. Oysters constitute 75 percent of the 40 million pounds of shell fish taken annually from the Chesapeake Bay. During the war, Negroes reported earning from \$10 to \$40 per day "oystering."

Industry is for the most part confined to comparatively recent Government projects, canning houses and water trades. Canning, on the Eastern Shore, was the outgrowth of the sea food industry. "Hermetical Sealing" was first applied to oysters and, when the result proved satisfactory, the product found a ready market. The preservation process was then extended to fruits and vegetables. Some communities are largely dependent upon these canneries,

as they employ hundreds of persons.

Many individuals classified neither as farm nor rural non-farm constitute farm labor. These are the bean-pickers, the day laborers, etc., who do seasonal piece work. The Negroes in Southern Maryland and

on the Eastern Shore live under much the same conditions in many respects that their ancestors knew, deriving their primary source of income from oyster shucking, crop-picking, farm labor, and working in canneries.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Population Growth

Negro population, generally, its size, distribution within the State, growth or decline, and rate of migration, are all important factors in any consideration affecting the group. A review shows, for example, that in 1800, of the 341,548 individuals in the state, 31 percent were slaves, and 6 percent were designated "Free Blacks." In 1860 the entire population was 687,049, of which 13 percent were slaves and 12 percent "Free Blacks."¹

This raises many questions: What was a Free Black? How was his freedom gained? Just what reduced the slave population before emancipation?

While it is not possible to consider all of these historical aspects, they do over-shadow the present-day Negro to the extent that they cannot be overlooked.

Maryland is proud, as well she may be, of the fact that slave trade was prohibited by State law as early as 1783. That this spirit of freedom could not so quickly penetrate the minds and hearts of her citizens as to be immediately reflected in the lives of her enslaved people, is a matter for neither criticism nor condemnation. It is only by looking at

¹Passano—"History of Maryland," page 302.

TABLE 1. POPULATION: NUMBER OF WHITES, SLAVES, FREE BLACKS AND NEGROES IN MARYLAND, 1800 TO 1940¹

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Population</i>	<i>Whites</i>	<i>Slaves</i>	<i>Free Blacks</i>	<i>Negroes</i>
1800.....	341,548	216,326	105,635	19,587	125,222
1810.....	380,546	235,117	111,502	33,927	145,429
1820.....	407,350	260,222	107,398	39,730	147,128
1830.....	447,040	291,108	102,994	52,938	155,932
1840.....	470,019	318,204	89,737	62,078	149,815
1850.....	583,035	418,590	90,368	74,077	164,445
1860.....	687,049	515,918	87,189	83,942	171,131
1870.....	780,894	605,497	-----	-----	175,391
1880.....	934,943	724,693	-----	-----	210,230
1890.....	1,042,390	826,493	-----	-----	215,657
1900.....	1,180,044	952,424	-----	-----	235,064
1910.....	1,295,346	1,062,639	-----	-----	232,250
1920.....	1,449,661	1,204,737	-----	-----	244,479
1930.....	1,631,526	1,354,226	-----	-----	276,379
1940.....	1,821,244	1,518,481	-----	-----	301,931

¹Passano—"History of Maryland," p. 302, for data from 1800 to 1890.

Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, for data from 1900 to 1940.

these facts clearly, with unbiased vision, that one can hope to understand the very involved situation.

The Negro had come to Maryland, as he had come to America, to labor on the plantations. By the middle of the 19th Century, the quality of Maryland crops had become somewhat lowered, there being at that time few regular crop rotations or systematic order of planting. When crops became unproductive, slaves became liabilities and a group of Free Blacks came into existence.

How "free" was such an individual? Restrained from working at any but the most menial occupation, his income was almost negligible. He could not own a dog, or a piece of firearms, nor could he belong to secret organizations, or attend gatherings of any kind, even religious, unless there was present some white individual.¹ Notwithstanding these limitations, the Free Black, in his own mind, had taken a great upward step; and long before emancipation, slavery, as such, was giving way, even though to a different type of servitude.

It would appear, that the great reduction of Maryland slaves, prior to the Civil War, was primarily a matter of economics; but it is necessary to not lose sight of the fact there were people in Maryland, too, who early recognizing the evils of slavery were bringing what pressure they could to bear on the subject. These were the "Voices of Maryland,

crying out in the wilderness," destined to add their almost inaudible rejections to those of other states to end in a nation-wide conflict.

This afore-mentioned "freedom" at least permitted the Negro to move about and the more advanced of the group sought security in "money-paying" jobs. These were to be found in cities and towns, and this was the beginning of the Negro getting away from the Maryland farm and his agricultural background.

Few realized, however, that along with privileges came responsibilities, and little time had been given to developing the requisite initiative or self-reliance which would enable the Negroes to take their place in a competitive civilization. Separated suddenly from all close contact with those of culture, refinement, background and breeding, the display of loudness, coarseness, crudeness, and shiftlessness, so widely associated with the Negro today, should neither surprise nor be embarrassing. The laziness and shiftlessness masked a hopeless despondency; laughter and loudness were their only articulate ways of showing a deep hurt and resentment at an indefinable something too big and too vague for them to grasp mentally; something subtle and malignant, which leaves its mark on their very souls from generation to generation.

On the other hand, there were many house-servants and personal attendants of those old aristocrats of Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Those fortunate enough to

¹"Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State," Oxford University Press, p. 55.

remain in such an environment imbibed much of their finesse and were able to pass on to their children a desire for better things. These were destined to advance along more intellectual lines. This was the first split in the social structure of the group.

The "tiller of the soils" could no more bridge the gap between himself and his educated brother than the one between himself and the whites. The intellectual Negro was being trained away from the soil. He did not look down on his less fortunate brother; his new training just did not carry with it the ability to reach down and help him up. Perhaps his new-found vantage point was too insecure. But the truth remained, that in the years to come this breach was to widen into almost antagonistic proportions. Thus was born, socially and culturally, a group within a group, with limitations and boundaries as well defined as if the groups were racially distinct.

This forward group was to produce some Americans of which Maryland should well be proud.

They included Josiah Henson (1787-1881) of Southern Maryland, the original "Uncle Tom" immortalized in American literature by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Harriet Tubman, the heroine of the Underground Railroad, often called the "Moses of her people," was a product of the Eastern Shore. She is credited with over 400 liberations, and so menaced slave-holders that a price of \$40,000 was placed on her head.

It was the Eastern Shore also, which produced Frederick Douglass (1817-95). His life, from the time he was a slave boy, owned by one of the Lords of Wye, through the period when he was hailed as a Lecturer, Abolitionist, Editor, Author, United States Marshall, and Minister to Haiti, until the time he returned to that same plantation as a distinguished visitor, is as colorful and as American as the area which gave him his birth.

Benjamin Banneker, (1731-1806) became well known in Europe as the African Astronomer. In 1761, he is credited with having made the first clock in Maryland, whittling it from wood; and in 1792 he published an almanac for which he constructed his own tables. A Free Negro, he was the first of his race to receive a presidential appointment, being named to assist Major Andrew Elliott in a survey of the boundaries of the "Federal Territory."

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF NEGRO POPULATION IN MARYLAND, 1920, 1930 AND 1940*

Year	Total Negro Population	Percentage Distribution of Negro Population		
		Urban	Rural Non-Farm	Farm
1920	244,479	51	23	26
1930	276,379	58	26	16
1940	301,931	61	24	15

*U. S. Bureau of Census, 1940.

Distribution of Population

Migration of Negroes away from rural areas continues. Of the 301,931 Negroes in Maryland in 1940, over 61 percent were located in urban areas, 24 percent in rural non-farm areas and only 15 percent lived on farms. In 1920, 26 percent of the entire Negro population were on farms, and in 1930 it was 16 percent. It is probable that this rapid urbanization of the 1920's was checked by the economic insecurity of the early 1930's.

Migration of Negroes to urban centers is usually not direct. In Maryland it follows a more gradual pattern from farm to rural town and then to the city. With the migration to urban areas has come the development of Negro districts and Negro

towns. In Prince George's County, which borders on Washington, D. C., there were in 1948 three Negro incorporated towns.

Whether rural or urban, the predominant occupations of Maryland Negroes in 1940 were laboring and domestic work. According to the U. S. Census of Population for 1940, over half of the persons employed were classified in these two types of occupations. Less than one-fourth were classed as semi-skilled and about one-fourth were skilled white collar workers or were working for themselves.

Negroes live in all counties of Maryland. However, the number is influenced by the type of agriculture and the prevalence of cities. Vegetable crops and tobacco require

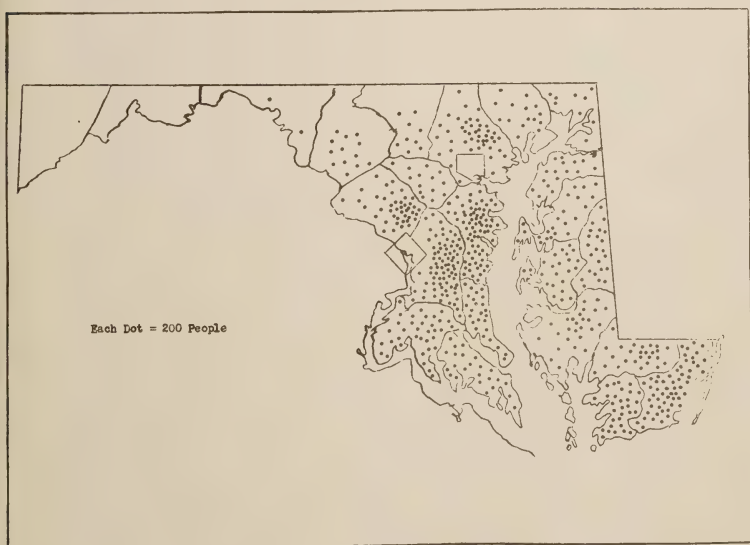


FIG. 1. RURAL NEGRO POPULATION IN MARYLAND, 1940

TABLE 3. COMPARISON OF NEGRO POPULATION IN MARYLAND, BY COUNTIES, 1930 AND 1940

<i>County and Region</i>	<i>1930</i>	<i>1940</i>	<i>Percentage increase 1930 to 1940</i>
Alleghany	1,454	1,320	- 9.2
Garrett	24	5	-79.1
Washington	2,010	1,774	-11.7
Baltimore	11,764	10,504	-10.7
Baltimore City	142,106	165,843	16.7
Carroll	1,762	2,078	17.8
Frederick	4,713	4,697	- 0.3
Harford	4,023	3,981	- 1.0
Howard	3,270	2,804	-14.2
Montgomery	8,266	8,889	7.5
Anne Arundel	14,927	17,763	15.9
Calvert	4,519	4,880	8.0
Charles	7,492	7,228	- 3.5
Prince George's	14,028	16,224	15.6
St. Mary's	5,592	4,724	-15.5
Cecil	2,595	2,347	- 9.5
Kent	4,437	4,067	- 8.3
Queen Anne's	4,379	4,345	- 0.8
Talbot	5,943	5,732	- 3.5
Caroline	3,677	3,442	- 6.4
Dorchester	7,830	8,086	2.0
Somerset	8,111	7,081	-12.7
Wicomico	6,750	7,477	10.8
Worcester	6,712	6,669	- 0.6
State Total	276,379	301,931	9.2

¹Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL NEGRO POPULATION, BY FARM AND NON-FARM, IN MARYLAND, 1940

<i>County and Region</i>	<i>RURAL POPULATION</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Farm</i>	<i>Non-Farm</i>	
Alleghany	4	20	24
Garrett	3	2	5
Washington	51		
Baltimore	1,549	7,252	8,801
Carroll	249	1,636	1,885
Frederick	989	1,708	2,697
Harford	1,292	1,838	3,130
Howard	933	1,871	2,804
Montgomery	2,559	6,121	8,680
Anne Arundel	3,884	10,087	13,971
Calvert	3,783	1,097	4,880
Charles	4,293	2,935	7,228
Prince George's	5,444	10,080	15,524
St. Mary's	2,219	2,505	4,724
Cecil	402	1,558	1,960
Kent	692	2,539	3,231
Queen Anne's	2,001	2,345	4,346
Talbot	2,281	2,343	4,624
Caroline	1,673	1,769	3,442
Dorchester	2,310	2,884	5,194
Somerset	2,199	3,899	6,098
Wicomico	2,294	2,896	5,190
Worcester	2,291	3,736	11,217
STATE	47,178	71,580	120,165

much hand labor and a minimum investment in machinery; therefore, Negro families have tended to remain on the Lower Eastern Shore and in Southern Maryland. The population is low in Western Maryland because of the cold climate, the high investment required in agriculture and the lack of urban areas.

Negro population is heavy in the urban areas of Baltimore, Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, as well as in the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis, Cambridge, Salisbury and Easton.

During the ten-year period of 1930 to 1940 there was a heavy shift in the Negro population of Maryland, as shown in Table 3. For the State, the Negro population increased by 25,556 persons, or 9.2 percent. The heaviest increase was in Baltimore City; counties reporting an increase were Anne Arundel, Calvert, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's and Wicomico. Decreases in Negro population were reported for 16 of the 23 counties of Maryland.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM FAMILIES STUDIED IN THIS SURVEY

Farm and rural non-farm Negro people are not too unlike. The farmer's main concern is of his crops, livestock and the weather. The rural non-farm man is concerned with a job, a salary, or probably a small business. To him, the garden plot, chickens, hogs and perhaps a cow, are supplements, and more or less hobbies. The farmer is concerned about his implements, the availability of a tractor, of sufficient help in planting and at harvesting time. The rural non-farmer must have a car or available transportation; he may have broader civic and community interests; but both come together and discuss problems in the same neighborly and meaningful way; and all, whether owners, renters, farmers, clerks, laborers, domestics or teachers, are primarily inter-

ested in the business of living, and training their young.

Families Studied

According to the U. S. Census of Agriculture for 1945, there were 41,275 farms in Maryland, of which 4,218, or 10.2 percent, were operated by negroes. The value of farm land and buildings operated by Negroes was \$16,243,864.

This study included 1,926 families on the Eastern Shore and in Southern Maryland. The 951 farm families represented about 10 percent of all Negro farm families. Of the 518 families interviewed in Southern Maryland, 90 percent were on tobacco farms. of the 433 farms studied on the Eastern Shore, 42 percent were classified as truck farms, 36 percent were part-time farms, and

others were classified as poultry or grain farms.

For purposes of this study the farm family was defined as one that lived on a farm of at least three acres, and whose principal income was derived from agriculture. About one-fourth of these families had incomes from non-farm work of members of the household. A greater proportion of families on the Eastern Shore received supplemental incomes, and in 70 percent of the cases this additional income went into the homes where the head of the family earned \$500 or less. Added income into the household did not necessarily imply that this came into the family budget, nor did it pre-suppose a higher standard of living for the family, for in many cases it was used exclusively by the wage earner.

The number of non-relatives in farm homes was unusually high. This "stretching" of the Negro family to include other than its legal or biologic group is a well known characteristic.

The basic function of the family in general are to transmit the biological and cultural heritages and to provide a primary agency for socialization. That the farm family seems to function more completely than the urban in this respect, is shown by the fact that according to statistics farm families have more children; and the "country is still populating the city."¹

¹Baker, O. E., et al, "Agriculture in Modern Life."

Farm parents, because of fewer distracting influences, can be more dominant and have more opportunity to pass on their philosophy of life. More children in the family household make play groups within the home, and outside contacts are not the necessity they are in urban homes.

Rural Maryland substantiates this, as 30 percent of the families interviewed for this study numbered 7 and over in their household groups. Families of only 1 or 2 were reported in 22 percent of the cases and 47 percent had between 3 and 6 individuals.

Range of age in heads of families presented interesting angles, when one considers that over one-half of them were 50 years of age and over. In this age group, 14 percent had 7 or more individuals per family and 70 percent were owners.

Only 10 percent of heads of families were less than 35 years old. This raises interesting questions. Where are the younger parents? Are they leaving the farm? Are they marrying and having families of their own?

Further study showed that the trend of this younger generation away from the farm was not as great as one might be led to expect, nor was it from farm to city; but rather from farm to non-farm areas. Children had left one-half of the farm homes interviewed; one-fourth of them went to other farms, and the remainder went into rural non-farm areas.

About 36 percent of the heads of

FIG. 2. MANY FAMILIES EXPRESSED A
DESIRE FOR A BETTER HOME

families were between 35 and 49 years of age. Exactly half of these were owners. It would appear that this might be called a "transition group," representing those years in which the young tenant acquired the cash which would enable him to strike out on his own.

Migration or mobility was noted. Statistics show that only 18 percent of the farm people in the areas studied moved once in a period of five years, while one-third of them had been on the same farm for 20 years and over.

The incident of illness or physical defect was reported for 40 percent of the families. While only 19 percent visited a clinic during the year, 32 percent saw a dentist.

The eagerness of the farm family to advance is shown by the fact that one-half of them received extension bulletins and a greater number than this got other additional educational help.



Housing

The life of the Negro farmer, and his family, was a busy one. Long hours of farm work did not leave much time for beautifying the farmstead. Necessity and utility were stressed. Even the "yard," the playground of the children, was shrinking to make room for the driveway to the garage, or as is often the case,

TABLE 5. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS SHOWING SOUNDNESS OF DWELLING,
BY INCOME OF OPERATOR

<i>Area and Income</i>	<i>Sound</i>	<i>Unsound</i>	<i>Roof Sags</i>	<i>Roof Leaks</i>	<i>House Leans</i>	<i>Foundation Crumbling</i>
Farms reporting.....	67.2	32.8	8.0	25.9	9.8	11.8
Southern Maryland.....	61.6	38.4	8.5	31.7	10.4	14.9
Eastern Shore.....	73.9	26.1	7.4	18.9	9.0	8.1
Southern Maryland:						
Under \$500.....	62.0	38.1	14.3	28.6	19.0	14.3
\$500-\$1,000.....	46.9	53.1	14.3	46.9	18.4	18.4
\$1,000-\$2,000.....	63.4	36.6	8.2	28.4	9.1	15.6
Over \$2,000.....	67.9	32.1	4.5	27.6	6.4	11.5
Eastern Shore:						
Under \$500.....	62.3	37.7	10.4	29.9	13.0	11.7
\$500-\$1,000.....	67.5	32.5	11.1	23.9	11.1	12.0
\$1,000-\$2,000.....	77.3	22.7	4.2	15.1	5.9	5.9
Over \$2,000.....	84.2	15.8	5.0	10.8	7.5	4.2

to make parking space, or standing room for trucks, cars and wagons. Even with these handicaps, one-fourth of the farmsteads had fences and 38 percent showed some attempts at landscaping.

Unpainted farm houses were reported on 40 percent of the farms. Often, the idea of painting, even as a preservation measure, had not occurred to the occupant.

Farm homes were similar in general design. The five-room type was reported on 72 percent of the farms. It was the dining-room or kitchen which received the casual caller, the neighbor, the guest; even the lane from the road led to the kitchen door. The dining-room, perhaps more than any other room in the farm home, did double duty. The living room on the farm was in reality not the most lived-in room. Farm people generally retained the "parlor." Cold, clean and stiff, it was opened only on special occasions for "company."

Conditions of dwellings indicated

an advance stage of decay on many farms. About one-third of the dwellings were classified as being unsound. Foundations were crumbling on 11.8 percent of the farms. Leaky roofs were reported for 25.9 percent of the homes. Low income families had serious housing problems. As shown in Table 5, a low income group in Southern Maryland reported that 46.9 percent of the homes had leaks in the roofs.

Facilities

Mechanization of the farm home has been slow. Aside from the 1.3 percent of homemakers who sent their laundry out to be done, and the 6.2 percent who had power machines, the remaining 91.9 percent still did their own washing in the old-fashioned tub, and 87 percent still used flat irons heated on the wood or coal stove for ironing. A sewing machine was a cherished possession, the pedal type being reported by 59 percent of the homemakers, and one percent reported electric sewing machines.

TABLE 6. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS SHOWING LAUNDRY FACILITIES,
CLASSIFIED BY INCOME OF OPERATOR

Area and Income	Tubs	Hand		Power		Irons		Flat
		Machine	Machine	Hired or Sent Out	Electric	Fuel		
Farms reporting.....	91.9	0.6	6.2	1.3	12.3	.8		86.8
Southern Maryland..	94.8	0.8	3.7	0.8	8.7	1.0		90.2
Eastern Shore.....	88.5	0.5	9.2	1.8	16.6	0.7		82.8
Southern Maryland:								
Under \$500.....	100.0	---	---	---	9.5	---		90.5
\$500-\$1,000	98.0	---	2.0	---	7.1	1.0		90.8
\$1,000-\$2,000	93.8	0.8	4.5	0.8	8.2	1.2		90.5
Over \$2,000.....	93.6	1.3	3.8	1.3	10.3	0.6		89.1
Eastern Shore:								
Under \$500.....	94.8	---	3.9	1.3	6.5	2.6		90.9
\$500-\$1,000	92.3	---	5.1	2.6	17.1	---		82.9
\$1,000-\$2,000	89.1	0.8	8.4	1.7	12.6	---		87.4
Over \$2,000.....	80.0	0.8	17.5	1.7	26.7	0.8		72.5

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS SHOWING FACILITIES,
CLASSIFIED BY INCOME OF OPERATOR

<i>Area and Income</i>	<i>Sewing Machine</i>		<i>Room, No Fixtures</i>	<i>Bath</i>
	<i>Pedal</i>	<i>Electric</i>		<i>Tubs or Showers</i>
Farms reporting	58.9	0.6	3.2	6.3
Southern Maryland	56.4	0.6	2.3	1.7
Eastern Shore	61.9	0.7	4.2	11.8
Southern Maryland:				
Under \$500	61.9	—	4.7	4.7
\$500-\$1,000	51.0	—	5.1	1.0
\$1,000-\$2,000	56.8	0.4	1.6	0.4
Over \$2,000	58.3	1.3	1.3	3.8
Eastern Shore:				
Under \$500	66.2	—	—	15.6
\$500-\$1,000	74.4	—	6.0	8.5
\$1,000-\$2,000	33.6	0.8	3.4	10.9
Over \$2,000	75.0	1.7	5.0	13.3

News of the world was brought in- homes provided a means of getting
to 65 percent of the homes by radio. greater coverage of new or improved
The prevalence of radios in farm farm and home facilities.

TABLE 8. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS REPORTING ELECTRICITY

<i>Area</i>	<i>Electricity</i>	<i>Kitchen Sinks</i>	<i>Pressure Cookers</i>
All farms reporting	14.7	8.6	7.6
Southern Maryland	8.5	2.7	7.1
Eastern Shore	22.2	15.7	8.1

TABLE 9. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS SHOWING CERTAIN FACILITIES, BY TENURE

<i>Area and Tenure</i>	<i>Home Painted</i>	<i>Any Toilet</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Piano or Organ</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Farms reporting	59.4	91.7	64.7	30.1	7.7
Southern Maryland	58.9	87.8	54.4	22.4	5.8
Eastern Shore	60.0	96.3	76.9	39.3	9.9
Southern Maryland:					
Owners	66.7	92.4	57.3	30.7	12.0
Full owners	65.6	93.3	55.9	32.8	13.3
Part owners	73.3	86.7	66.7	16.7	3.3
Tenants	52.9	84.3	52.2	16.0	1.0
Croppers	54.7	73.7	51.6	11.6	1.1
Other tenants	52.0	89.4	52.5	18.2	1.0
Eastern Shore:					
Owners	62.2	97.8	77.1	40.9	11.5
Full owners	59.9	97.9	77.7	42.2	12.5
Part owners	80.6	97.2	72.2	30.6	2.8
Tenants	53.6	91.8	76.4	34.5	5.5
Croppers	39.6	91.7	75.0	43.7	4.2
Other tenants	64.5	91.9	77.4	27.4	6.5

Practically all housewives pro-
cessed foods for home use and over
half of them reported that they had
put up over 50 quarts of products.
Pressure cookers were used by only
8 percent of the farm women, but
others had used pressure equipment

at community centers conducted by
home economics teachers and home
demonstration agents.

Tenure and Income

Owners constituted 58 percent of
the farm operators; tenants, 27 per-
cent; and croppers, 15 percent. A

majority of owners were on the Eastern Shore; but the larger farms, based on number of acres of crops grown, were in Southern Maryland.

Full ownership was found in 86 percent of the owned farms, and part ownership in the remainder. This latter term was used where the operator owned land and also rented some of the land he operated. According to Table 12, the gross income of tenants averaged high; however, expenses for production were not obtained.

Agriculturally, the tenant is an important person. He considers himself for the most part on a par socially and economically with the own-

er. He is highly respected and his position, like that of the owner, in the majority of cases, is traditional. Many of them in both areas are of the third and fourth generation on the same farm.

A group of tenants was classified as "share-croppers." These families supplied only their labor, owned no livestock or equipment and received a portion of the crops as their income. This group made up 15 percent of the farm families included in this study.

Incomes were influenced by wartime conditions. Increased demand for vegetables, tobacco and other farm products made higher gross in-

TABLE 10. TENURE OF FARM OPERATORS

<i>Area</i>	<i>All Farms (Percent)</i>	<i>Owners (Percent)</i>	<i>Tenants (Percent)</i>
Total	100.0	57.6	42.4
Southern Maryland	100.0	43.4	56.6
Eastern Shore	100.0	74.6	25.4

TABLE 11. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS, BY SIZE OF FARMS

<i>Area</i>	<i>Under 10 Acres</i>	<i>10 to 29 Acres</i>	<i>30 Acres and Over</i>
Total	30.0	48.0	22.0
Southern Maryland	23.8	54.4	21.8
Eastern Shore	37.6	40.4	22.0

TABLE 12. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS IN EACH TENURE GROUP, BY INCOME OF OPERATOR

<i>Tenure</i>	<i>Under \$500</i>	<i>\$500 to \$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,001 to \$2,000</i>	<i>Over \$2,000</i>
All farms	10.3	22.6	38.1	29.0
Southern Maryland	4.1	18.9	46.9	30.1
Eastern Shore	17.8	27.0	27.5	27.7
Southern Maryland:				
Owners	4.4	17.4	42.2	36.0
Full owners	5.1	17.4	41.5	36.0
Part owners	—	16.6	46.7	36.7
Tenants	3.8	20.1	50.5	25.6
Croppers	6.0	27.0	58.0	9.0
Other tenants	3.0	16.7	47.0	33.3
Eastern Shore:				
Owners	17.1	26.6	27.2	29.1
Full owners	17.1	26.8	28.9	27.2
Part owners	16.7	25.0	13.9	44.4
Tenants	20.0	28.2	28.2	23.6
Croppers	22.9	22.9	31.3	22.9
Other tenants	17.7	32.3	25.8	24.2

comes. But even under wartime conditions about 10 percent had incomes of under \$500 and only 29 percent received over \$2,000. Incomes were highest in Southern Maryland, where tobacco prices dur-

ing the war were favorable. On the Eastern Shore, 17.8 percent received less than \$500 annually. With expenses such as fertilizer, containers and seed to purchase, the income for family living was quite limited.

TABLE 13. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS, BY VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS

<i>Tenure</i>	<i>Farms Reporting</i>	<i>Under \$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000 to \$2,000</i>	<i>\$2,001 to \$3,000</i>	<i>\$3,001 to \$4,000</i>	<i>Over \$4,000</i>
All farms	75.2	8.5	25.7	14.1	8.8	18.1
Southern Maryland	65.3	7.7	20.5	9.7	7.9	19.5
Eastern Shore	87.1	9.5	31.9	17.4	9.9	16.4
Southern Maryland:						
Owners	86.2	8.9	27.6	18.7	11.1	20.0
Full owners	86.7	7.7	28.7	17.4	11.8	21.0
Part owners	83.3	16.7	20.0	26.7	6.7	13.3
Tenants	49.1	6.8	15.0	2.7	5.5	19.1
Croppers	35.8	11.6	13.7	2.1	1.1	7.4
Other tenants	55.6	4.5	15.7	3.0	7.6	24.7
Eastern Shore:						
Owners	94.4	12.1	36.8	21.7	10.2	13.6
Full owners	94.4	12.9	36.6	20.2	9.8	15.0
Part owners	94.4	5.6	38.9	33.3	13.9	2.8
Tenants	65.5	1.8	17.3	12.7	9.1	24.5
Croppers	72.9	2.1	10.4	18.7	10.4	31.2
Other tenants	59.7	1.6	22.6	8.1	8.1	19.4

Machinery was reported on over three-fourths of the farms in each area, and only one-half of it was valued at over \$250. Southern Maryland exceeded the Eastern Shore in this respect. Farmers today have the

desire for more machinery but have been unable to make purchases; first, it was low income, but in recent years as incomes increased the shortage of machinery made it difficult to acquire.

TABLE 14. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS, BY VALUE OF MACHINERY

<i>Farms</i>	<i>Percentage of Farms Reporting</i>	<i>Under \$100</i>	<i>\$100 to \$249</i>	<i>\$250 and Over</i>
All farms	83.6	11.8	13.1	58.7
Southern Maryland	81.7	9.5	15.1	57.1
Eastern Shore	85.9	14.5	10.9	60.5

Type of Farming

Southern Maryland Agriculture was built around tobacco, but on the Eastern Shore the light, sandy soils were more conducive to vegetable or truck crop production. Both of these types required a small amount of capital and large amounts of hand labor. Negro families took to both

types, both as tenants and as owners.

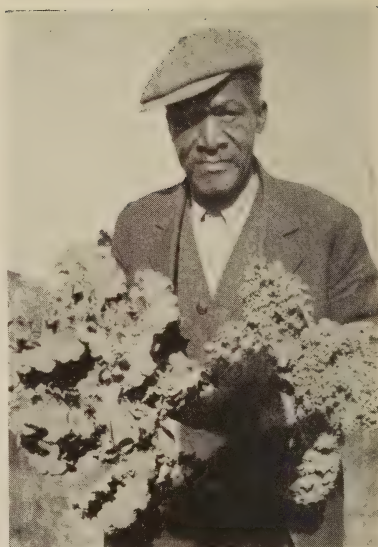
Farms operated by Negroes tended to be small. Only 22 percent reported over 30 acres of land in cultivation. Corn was grown for live-stock feed on most of the farms. Hay and wheat were also grown for home use. Cash crops were tobacco in Southern Maryland, where 93.1 per-

FIG. 3. PRODUCING QUALITY PRODUCTS WAS
HIS PLEASURE

cent of the farmers reported the crop, and truck crops on the Eastern Shore, where 80.8 percent reported producing those crops.

Some livestock were kept on most of the farms. Horses and mules were for draft power, but chickens and hogs were for home consumption. Horses and mules were kept by 79 percent of the farmers; 85 percent had hogs; 90.7 percent had chickens; and 59 percent reported cattle.

Tobacco and truck crop farming were the major types; however, "part-time" farming was prevalent among Negroes. That is, farmers worked at other jobs part of the time. This type of farming was in areas where there was opportunity for outside employment in trades or industries. On the basis of all farms,



21.7 percent were classified as "part-time," but on the Eastern Shore where water trades, such as fishing and oystering, were numerous, 36 percent of the farmers reported having non-farm seasonal jobs.

TABLE 15. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED CROPS GROWN

Area	Tobacco	Truck Crops	Corn	Hay	Wheat	Oats
Southern Maryland	93.1	6.8	89.8	21.4	19.9	2.7
Eastern Shore	80.8	90.1	50.6	25.9	6.2

TABLE 16. PERCENTAGE OF FARMS REPORTING LIVESTOCK

Area	Horses	Mules	Cattle	Hogs	Chickens
Southern Maryland	71.0	5.0	69.1	92.9	90.9
Eastern Shore	32.6	25.2	46.9	74.8	90.5

TABLE 17. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS, BY TYPE OF FARMING

Area	Tobacco	Part-time	Truck Crop	Dairy or Livestock	Poultry	Cash Grain
All farms	48.5	21.5	19.7	2.8	3.5	4.0
Southern Maryland	89.0	9.4	0.6	0.6	—	0.4
Eastern Shore	36.0	42.5	5.5	7.6	8.3

CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL NON-FARM FAMILIES STUDIED IN THIS SURVEY

A total of 975 rural non-farm families were studied. These families were located in villages, hamlets or open country. Low rents, low taxes, space for the production of vegetables, possession of chickens, hogs and cows all contributed to a lower cost of living, and gave the people many of the advantages of farm life. There seemed to be a thin line of demarcation between farm and non-farm groups. The criterion used was the dependence upon sources of income other than agriculture for their livelihood and the size of holding.

Income

Income of the head of the family, the primary criterion, is shown in Table 18. Even though the records were taken during the war, when wages tended to be abnormally high, 24.5 percent of the heads of families

received under \$500 annually. Only 6.2 percent received over \$2,000 and most of these were in Southern Maryland.

Head of Family

The head of the family was defined as the "bread winner." Males were reported as head of the family on 78 percent of the non-farms; females, presumably the mother, on 15 percent; and sons and daughters on 7 percent. A female head did not presuppose an absence of adult males, for despite the predominance of male heads, the matriarchial tendency was very strong. A number of these females were widows who had not actually relinquished their coveted position to the son or grandson, no matter how much income he brought into the home. Nor, did it matter if they were dependent upon the younger person for maintenance

TABLE 18. DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OF HEADS OF NON-FARM FAMILIES BY TENURE

<i>Tenure and Area</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Under \$500</i>	<i>\$500 to \$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,001 to \$2,000</i>	<i>Over \$2,000</i>
All	975	239	356	320	60
Owners	647	172	224	234	44
Renters	301	67	132	86	16
Owners:					
Eastern Shore	348	131	142	67	8
Southern Maryland ..	326	41	82	167	36
Renters:					
Eastern Shore	151	48	71	27	5
Southern Maryland.....	150	19	61	59	11
<i>Percent Distribution</i>					
All	100	24.5	36.5	32.8	6.2
Owners	100	25.5	33.2	34.7	6.5
Renters	100	22.3	43.9	28.6	5.3
Owners:					
Eastern Shore	100	37.6	40.8	19.3	2.3
Southern Maryland ..	100	12.6	25.2	51.2	11.0
Renters:					
Eastern Shore	100	31.8	47.0	17.9	3.3
Southern Maryland.....	100	12.7	40.7	39.3	7.3

or upkeep of the family and, while sociologically the bread winner was the head, paradoxically, this did not necessarily follow in rural Maryland.

A further age range of heads of families showed that 33 percent were

between 35 and 49 years of age; and 29 percent under 35. Statistics further showed that 45 percent of these families had been on the same property for more than 11 years and 29 percent for more than 20 years.

TABLE 19. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES, BY YEARS IN PRESENT HOME

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Less than 2 Years</i>	<i>2 to 5 Years</i>	<i>6 to 10 Years</i>	<i>11 to 20 Years</i>	<i>More than 20 Years</i>
All families.....	9.9	26.5	17.8	16.2	28.8
Eastern Shore.....	8.0	23.2	18.0	17.0	32.7
Southern Maryland	12.0	29.8	17.6	15.3	24.8
Eastern Shore:					
Under \$500.....	6.1	18.4	16.8	19.6	38.0
\$500 to \$1,000.....	9.8	24.8	15.9	15.0	33.6
\$1,000 to \$2,000.....	8.6	26.9	25.8	16.1	21.5
Over \$2,000	—	38.5	15.4	23.1	23.1
Southern Maryland:					
Under \$500.....	3.3	21.7	11.7	15.0	48.3
\$500 to \$1,000.....	6.3	31.7	19.0	14.1	28.2
\$1,000-\$2,000.....	17.2	29.5	19.8	15.9	17.2
Over \$2,000	14.9	36.2	10.6	17.0	21.3

Non-farm families averaged 5.1 persons. In the entire group, 63 percent of the households had between 1 and 4 persons; 19 percent, between 5 and 6; and 18 percent, with 7 or more. In the lowest income group, 41 percent of the families were in 1 to 2 person households; in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 brackets, 49 percent were in the 5 to 6 person households, and 17 percent of them had over 7 individuals in their households.

Occupation

Laborers and domestics accounted for 48 percent of all occupations of non-farm Negro people; 22 percent were semi-skilled workers; 8 percent were white-collar workers; and 7 percent were working for themselves. The remaining 15 percent were seasonal workers, day laborers, bean pickers, and those who followed water trades. Oyster tonging, shuck-

ing, crab-picking and canning were some of the more lucrative jobs on the Eastern Shore. The high wages in these occupations were so spasmodic and temporary as not to be too highly reflected in the permanent standards of living. Often these people shifted with the calendar, and other seasons found them in industrial areas, for the remainder of the year.

Migration

In a period of 5 years, these 975 families had 856 children leave home; 108 went to other farms, 60 of which were within the State; 273 went into the Armed Services; 110 went to other rural non-farm areas; and 365 went to the city.

Within the same period, 225 families changed residence once, and 66 families moved twice. Of 33 families who came into the State, 26 lo-

cated themselves in Southern Maryland; 17 of these were in the higher income brackets.

Homestead

As shown in Table 20, over two-

thirds of the families lived on tracts of land of less than three acres. Crops were produced by 14 percent of these families, but only one percent reported sales.

TABLE 20. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SIZE OF HOLDINGS OF NON-FARM FAMILIES

Area	Under 1 Acre	1 or 2 Acres	3-9 Acres	10 or more Acres	Not Reporting
Total	24.5	45.1	21.7	5.1	3.6
Eastern Shore	24.0	47.5	22.8	3.0	.7
Southern Maryland	25.0	43.4	20.6	7.4	3.6

TABLE 21. TENURE OF NON-FARM FAMILIES, BY INCOME

Income	Owners (Percent)	Renters (Percent)
All families	69.1	30.9
Eastern Shore	69.7	30.3
Southern Maryland	68.5	31.5
Eastern Shore:		
Under \$500	73.2	26.8
\$500 to \$1,000	66.4	33.6
\$1,001 to \$2,000	72.0	28.0
Over \$2,000	61.5	38.5
Southern Maryland:		
Under \$500	68.3	31.7
\$500 to \$1,000	57.0	43.0
\$1,001 to \$2,000	74.0	26.0
Over \$2,000	76.6	23.4

TABLE 22. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VALUE OF LANDS AND BUILDINGS OF NON-FARM FAMILIES, BY TENURE

Tenure	Under \$1,000	\$1,001 to \$2,000	\$2,001 to \$3,000	\$3,001 to \$4,000	Over \$4,000	Not Reporting
All Farms Reporting	34.3	37.6	8.5	3.4	4.4	11.8
Owners	31.9	42.6	9.9	4.6	6.2	4.7
Renters	39.5	26.6	5.3	0.7	0.3	27.6
Owners:						
Eastern Shore	39.7	50.3	4.3	2.6	0.9	2.3
Southern Maryland	23.6	34.4	16.0	6.7	12.0	7.4
Renters:						
Eastern Shore	41.7	26.5	4.6	---	---	27.2
Southern Maryland	37.3	26.7	6.0	1.3	0.7	28.0

Homes were owned by 69.1 percent of the families, being equally divided between Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. The range of income was similar to that of farm families and indicated that ownership had little relationship to present income levels.

Housing

Reports were taken on the condi-

tion of grounds around the home. Only half of these showed landscaping; 27 percent of the yards were "well kept;" 32 percent "fair;" and 31 percent of the yards were classified as in poor condition.

Statistics show that attempts at outside beautification tended to diminish with the higher incomes. Grass lawns were more prevalent in

the \$500-\$1,000 income groups in both areas. Apparently, the more money the head of the family earns, the more he strives to acquire; and while his would-be leisure time is taken up with extra jobs, he still does not make enough to pay for such work being done. Conversely, the man earning less uses his spare time to "putter around."

In this low income group, one-fourth of all the houses were unpainted, and of the two-story type. An illustration is the large gray, weather-beaten structures of several generations. They stand, defying time and change, reluctant to relinquish some elements of a former grandeur or "good living" to the insecurity of the present—a gentle reminder of times that were. These are the houses that are usually headed by individuals over 50 years of age. In this study, 47 percent of the non-farm families interviewed were in this age group.

The majority of the homes were valued at under \$2,000, and over one-third were valued at under \$1,000.

Four-room structures were most numerous, constituting 29 percent; five and six-room dwellings made-up 21 percent; and houses of one room and over six rooms, 14 percent each. Some new houses of the bungalow type have been built in newly developed industrial areas. They are built for the most part on standard building lots in a surveyed zone. The owner or renter expressed pride in the house, also in pointing out "where the future street will run" and in showing the small built-in room for the bath. The yards were frequently of mud or hard baked clay, as the family had not yet had time to landscape or to make a garden plot.

The degree of deterioration of non-farm houses might be judged by the condition of the roofs and foundations. In this study, the foundations of half of the houses were of permanent columns and were classed as in good condition, but 10.4 percent were reported crumbling.

The roofs on two-thirds of the houses were in good condition and varied from 12 percent covered with

TABLE 23. STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS IN NON-FARM HOMES, BY PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

Income	Sound	Unsound	Roof	Roof	House Foundation	
			Sags	Leaks	Leans	Crumbling
All Families	71.1	28.6	7.8	21.2	9.3	10.4
Eastern Shore	72.9	26.7	9.2	19.8	10.4	8.2
Southern Maryland	69.1	30.7	6.3	22.7	8.2	12.6
Eastern Shore:						
Under \$500	72.6	27.4	9.5	19.0	11.7	6.1
\$500 to \$1,000	68.7	31.3	11.7	24.8	12.6	11.2
\$1,001 to \$2,000	82.8	15.1	4.3	10.8	4.3	5.4
Over \$2,000	76.9	23.1	—	15.4	—	7.7
Southern Maryland:						
Under \$500	55.0	45.0	13.3	40.0	20.0	25.0
\$500 to \$1,000	61.3	38.0	9.9	26.8	7.7	16.9
\$1,001 to \$2,000	76.7	23.3	3.1	16.7	5.7	7.9
Over \$2,000	74.5	25.5	2.1	17.0	6.4	6.4

FIG. 4. LABOR SAVING EQUIPMENT IS IN SOME HOMES

tar paper to .01 percent with tile; the most popular type of roofing was wood shingles, which was reported by 48 percent. Composition roofing was reported by 25 percent and tin for the remaining 15 percent of the homes. Even though incomes were high, 21.1 percent reported the roof leaked. In the Southern Maryland group, with incomes of under \$500, the houses were in such poor condition that 40 percent reported the roof leaked.

Ownership among these families was to a great extent traditional, as in the farm groups. While the majority of these owners were over 50 years of age, a number of young couples reported they were buying their homes. This was mostly true of individuals whose parents have been owners, and of another group which has been forced out of urban areas realizing that smaller monthly payments were more advantageous in the long run than high rents with all facilities in the city. To them, ownership meant independence and respectability. The down payment on the homes in most cases was heavy.

Half of the houses in each area have a living room, a dining room, bedroom and kitchen. Owners of these houses were in the higher income brackets and many expressed a desire to add on when lumber and



building materials became available. combined with kitchen, dining room and living room. The remainder had a definite bedroom, but combined living room and dining room or dining room and kitchen. One-fourth of all homes had some room used for two purposes.

Facilities

The rural housewife in Maryland had comparatively few labor-saving facilities. Negro homemakers were still doing the family wash in the traditional wash-tub in 86 percent of the homes, and 68 percent reported the use of flat irons, as shown in Table 24. In three-fourths of the homes cooking was done on a wood or coal range and only 14 percent of the kitchens had a sink of any kind. Much time was spent in necessary mending, cleaning lamp shades and filling kerosene lamps, as only 36 percent of the homes had electricity.

The primary source of drinking water was the well, with 69.2 percent reporting this source of water. Pressure systems for water were reported in 12 percent of the homes;

however, the high income group in Southern Maryland reported 27.7 percent with this type of system. Most of these homes were in the metropolitan area of Washington, D. C.

Ice was the most popular method of refrigeration, with 82 percent reporting this method; mechanical refrigeration was used by 13 percent of the families and 3 percent used the well or spring house.

Bath and toilet facilities for non-farm families were inadequate. Bath

tubs or showers were available to only 7 percent of the families. As incomes exceeded \$2,000 annually, there was a large increase in families reporting these facilities.

Little progress has been made in improving toilet facilities. The majority reported the ordinary privy, but a few listed the sanitary privy and inside flush type as being available. In Southern Maryland, 60 families in the study reported that no facilities were available.

TABLE 24. PERCENTAGE OF NON-FARM FAMILIES REPORTING LAUNDRY FACILITIES IN HOMES

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Washing Hired or Sent Out</i>	<i>Power Machine</i>	<i>Tubs</i>	<i>Electric Irons</i>	<i>Flat Irons</i>	<i>Kitchen Sink</i>
All families	2.7	9.9	85.9	31.1	68.9	14.3
Eastern Shore	2.6	7.0	88.6	24.6	75.4	17.2
Southern Maryland	2.7	13.0	83.2	37.8	42.2	11.1
Eastern Shore:						
Under \$500	---	5.6	93.9	19.0	81.0	5.0
\$500-\$1,000	3.7	6.5	87.9	21.0	79.0	20.1
\$1,000-\$2,000	2.2	10.8	82.8	36.6	73.4	26.9
Over \$2,000	23.1	7.7	69.2	76.9	23.1	69.2
Southern Maryland:						
Under \$500	---	1.7	98.3	25.0	75.0	6.7
\$500-\$1,000	3.5	8.5	87.3	24.6	75.4	7.7
\$1,000-\$2,000	2.2	16.7	79.3	46.7	53.3	10.1
Over \$2,000	6.4	23.4	70.2	51.7	48.9	31.9

TABLE 25. PERCENTAGE REPORTING REFRIGERATION IN NON-FARM HOMES

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Mechanical</i>	<i>Ice</i>	<i>Spring House</i>	<i>Well</i>	<i>None</i>
All families	12.8	81.6	0.3	2.4	2.8
Eastern Shore	5.8	87.2	0.2	3.2	2.8
Southern Maryland	20.2	75.2	0.4	1.5	2.7
Eastern Shore:					
Under \$500	4.5	91.1	---	2.8	1.7
\$500 to \$1,000	3.7	86.9	0.5	3.3	5.1
\$1,001 to \$2,000	10.8	84.9	---	4.3	---
Over \$2,000	23.1	76.9	---	---	---
Southern Maryland:					
Under \$500	6.7	85.0	---	1.7	6.7
\$500 to \$1,000	12.0	80.3	0.7	4.2	2.8
\$1,001 to \$2,000	25.1	72.7	0.4	---	1.8
Over \$2,000	38.3	59.6	---	---	2.1

TABLE 26. PERCENTAGE OF HOMES WITH BATH FACILITIES, BY INCOME OF FAMILIES

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Bath Tub or Shower</i>	<i>Room but No Fixtures</i>	<i>None</i>
All families	7.0	2.4	90.6
Eastern Shore	5.2	1.4	93.4
Southern Maryland	8.8	3.4	88.7
Eastern Shore:			
Under \$500	1.1	3.4	95.5
\$500 to \$1,000	5.1	—	94.9
\$1,001 to \$2,000	9.7	1.1	89.2
Over \$2,000	30.8	—	69.2
Southern Maryland:			
Under \$500	5.0	3.3	91.7
\$500-\$1,000	4.2	1.4	94.4
\$1,001 to \$2,000	9.7	4.0	86.3
Over \$2,000	23.4	6.4	70.2

TABLE 27. PERCENTAGE OF HOMES WITH TOILET FACILITIES

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Ordinary Privy</i>	<i>Sanitary Privy</i>	<i>Inside Flush</i>	<i>None</i>
All Families	69.4	15.9	7.1	7.6
Eastern Shore	69.2	22.6	5.4	2.8
Southern Maryland	69.5	9.1	8.8	12.6
Eastern Shore:				
Under \$500	27.7	6.4	0.6	1.2
\$500 to \$1,000	29.7	10.1	1.8	1.6
\$1,001 to \$2,000	10.8	5.6	1.8	—
Over \$2,000	1.0	0.4	1.2	—
Southern Maryland:				
Under \$500	8.6	1.0	0.6	2.3
\$500 to \$1,000	21.6	2.7	1.3	4.4
\$1,001 to \$2,000	34.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
Over \$2,000	5.0	0.8	2.5	1.5

Food Produced

Milk was used by about three-fourths of the families, with almost two-thirds of the families having fresh milk. The main problem was in Southern Maryland where 1 in 3 of the families, with incomes of under \$1,000 reported that milk was not used.

Distance to Church and Trade Centers

Rural folk did not consider distance a problem in attending church. Many families in Southern Maryland reported they traveled over 20 miles to their church in Washington, D. C.; and others considered 7 or 8 miles as no distance at all to attend church services.

Garden plots were prevalent; three-fourths of the families had gardens of adequate size to supply the family's needs. However, maximum use was not being made of the produce raised, as less than half of the families canned 50 or more quarts of vegetables.

Trading centers were available at distances from 1 to 3 miles for 40 percent of the people; 18 percent were from 4 to 9 miles away; and 16 percent had to travel over 10 miles to shop. But every village and hamlet had its small grocery store and the family was seldom more than 10 minutes away from staple groceries.

Schooling

In this study, 45 percent of the heads of families had completed 5 to 8 years of school training, and 31 percent had completed 1 to 4 years. The years in school as reported by the heads of families were higher than usually expected; however, all adults had an average of 4 years schooling. Even though formal schooling was not high, the families did have books and reading material. A total of 76 percent of the homes had more than 10 books, 65 percent took daily and/or weekly newspapers, and 25 percent subscribed to magazines.

Educational Helps

Participation in other educational programs was limited. Only 6 percent of the women attended Homemakers Clubs and only 4.5 percent of the boys and girls were members of 4-H Clubs. This may be low, and it is possible that the interpretation was not too clear. Rural people tended to think of the Agent rather than the organization he represents.

Agricultural bulletins went into 8 percent of non-farm homes.

Rural people reported that 26 percent of all the families were directly helped by either the Extension Service, Vocational Agricultural teacher, or the Home Economics representative during the year. This help was by meetings, letters, visits, and telephone calls. Statistics show that so many of these groups were in the higher income brackets that there seems to be danger of the program not reaching those for whom it was primarily intended. Just as the clinics were frequented most by the families with higher incomes, likewise, meetings and clubs were seldom attended by people who needed this service most.

Indications are that this larger under-privileged group did not even know of the existence of such services—many have neither the time nor the inclination for such; or may be wholly unaware of their own lack. A certain inactive, shiftless, haphazard type of existence all too

TABLE 28. PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES THAT USED MILK AND HAD GARDENS, BY INCOME OF HEAD OF FAMILY

Income Group	MILK			FAMILY GARDEN					
	Milk Purchased			Received		Quarts of Produce Canned			
	Fresh	Canned	None	Free	Reported Garden	Under 50	50 to 99	100 or More	Adequate Amount
All families.....	62.3	11.3	21.5	3.0	74.9	21.2	11.9	11.9	59.5
Eastern Shore.....	57.5	17.6	18.8	4.0	79.0	22.6	8.6	4.4	62.7
Southern Maryland	67.2	4.6	24.4	1.9	70.6	19.7	15.3	19.7	56.1
Eastern Shore:									
Under \$500.....	40.8	36.3	16.8	2.8	80.4	20.1	4.5	1.1	56.4
\$500-\$1,000.....	61.7	9.8	21.5	5.1	80.4	25.2	8.9	7.0	66.8
\$1,001-\$2,000.....	76.3	2.2	18.3	3.2	76.3	23.7	16.1	5.4	67.7
Over \$2,000.....	84.6	—	7.7	7.7	53.8	7.7	7.7	—	46.2
Southern Maryland:									
Under \$500.....	55.0	10.0	28.3	—	63.3	26.7	11.7	8.3	50.0
\$500-\$1,000.....	57.0	5.6	34.5	2.8	75.4	20.4	21.8	20.4	59.9
\$1,001-\$2,000.....	74.9	3.1	18.9	2.2	69.6	18.1	13.7	22.0	54.2
Over \$2,000.....	76.6	2.1	14.9	—	70.2	17.0	8.5	21.3	61.7



FIG. 5. FUTURE CITIZENS LEARN BY DOING IN 4-H CLUB WORK

often noted in certain groups is not the responsibility of any one agency, but it does offer an opportunity for each one to render a much needed service. And while the duty of the Extension Agent does not include a flagrant selling of his program, a well-rounded, highly functioning, efficiently and sufficiently staffed organization would automatically draw into its fold many of these who should be benefiting.

Health

Medical facilities present the same problems to rural Maryland that are found in rural communities generally. For the most part, the people must go great distances before reaching a hospital, clinic or physician. Over half of the families interviewed

were unaware of the existence of a Public Health Clinic, and those who had heard of it in most instances "did not know the days;" "it was so far away;" "I had no one to leave the children with;" "I had no way to get there;" etc.

About 10 percent of the families had visited a clinic during the year. The majority of these were in Southern Maryland and were in the higher income brackets. Southern Maryland was closer to more urban areas and more clinics were available. Apparently, the man with the larger income had also widened his vision and had more well-defined needs. He was not only aware of the clinic but had measured its potentialities in terms of his financial ability as well as the services it offered.

Regular visits of the school nurse probably accounted for the fact that more illness in each area was reported for older people than for children. It was also noted that illness, as such, was more prevalent in the non-farm group on the Eastern Shore, but in Southern Maryland, more was found in the farm group. The conception of illness among rural people, debility, sluggishness, malnutrition did not mean "Johnny" was really ill; he was "just a little lazy;" "slow, behind the others;" "a bit under the weather;" "he'll be all right soon," were statements frequently heard. Years later Johnny may be a patient in the State Hospital.

Such terms as "lowered resistance," "exposure," etc., had little or

no connotation. Rickets were just bowed legs—"nobody's fault; he was just born that way." An infection which would send an urbanite in haste to the nearest doctor or clinic was simply bandaged up and nature allowed to take its course.

The well-known slogan "See your dentist once a year" was heeded by one-third of the rural people in this study, but two-thirds of these visits were for extractions only.

Recreation

With over half the families owning automobiles, community life was broadening, but the church continued to be the most popular congregating spot for rural folk. The survey showed that 98 percent of the families attended church; that is, some members of the family attended church regularly.

School entertainments were next in popularity, with 79 percent of the families represented. Organizations, other than the church, drew members from 65 percent of the homes, and 60 percent reported they went to movies fairly regularly. Southern Maryland people expressed greater preference for fairs, picnics and community sings than on the Eastern Shore. Community meetings were attended by 13 percent. Half of the men spent time in such activities as baseball and fishing; and 18 percent were members of lodges.

The Parent Teachers' Association is becoming an increasingly popular gathering place, with 47 percent of the families reporting attendance. Rural parents are entering more and more into the "spirit" of school, and



FIG. 6. THE CHURCH IS THE CENTER OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

this growing awareness of the “necessity of his children going further in school than he did” is manifesting itself in a number of ways. While

materialistic values are not being minimized, on the farm especially, social and spiritual values are being given more recognition.

TABLE 29. PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE REPORTING ATTENDANCE AT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Reported Some Type</i>	<i>Movies</i>	<i>School Enter- ment</i>	<i>Picnics</i>	<i>Fairs</i>	<i>Danc- ing</i>	<i>Sing- ing</i>	<i>Base- ball</i>	<i>Fishing</i>
All families	86.8	66.4	76.0	53.7	23.0	27.3	53.4	39.6	22.9
Eastern Shore	81.4	66.1	69.9	42.1	28.5	22.0	50.7	32.9	25.3
Southern Maryland Eastern Shore:	92.4	66.6	82.4	66.0	17.2	32.8	56.3	46.6	20.4
Under \$500	72.6	54.7	64.8	39.1	19.6	14.5	45.8	20.7	14.0
\$500-\$1,000	86.0	62.9	72.4	43.0	32.7	28.5	56.5	36.9	32.2
\$1,000-\$2,000	86.0	77.4	71.0	44.1	35.6	20.4	48.4	25.2	29.0
Over \$2,000	92.3	92.3	69.2	53.8	30.8	30.8	38.5	46.2	38.5
Southern Maryland:									
Under \$500	80.0	51.7	68.3	46.7	11.7	25.0	41.7	28.3	8.3
\$500-\$1,000	90.1	59.2	78.9	64.1	21.1	43.0	51.3	38.0	18.3
\$1,000-\$2,000	96.5	73.1	88.1	69.6	16.3	26.9	62.6	52.4	22.5
Over \$2,000	95.7	76.6	89.4	78.7	17.0	40.4	59.6	68.1	31.9

SUMMARY

This study gives a picture of how Maryland Negro families live—their home facilities, tenure, income, size of family, production of food, participation in community activities, and rural-urban migration.

Data were taken on approximately 2,000 Negro families equally divided between farm and rural non-farm groups. To take the schedules, 38 Negro workers were employed. Families for study were chosen from all levels so that the pattern presented a cross section of the group.

Behind the Negro are memories, hopes, and inspirations not easily understood, in many cases even by the individual. He is so bound with the modes, customs, and traditions of the group that the behavior of the individual can be understood only when considered in relation to the entire group.

In Maryland, as in most areas, the early settlers divided Negroes into house and field workers. House-servants and personal attendants were taught refinement and passed on to their children a desire for the better things of life. Thus was born a group within a group, with limitations and boundaries as well defined as if the groups were racially distinct.

Negroes accounted for 17 percent of the population of Maryland in 1940. However, in Southern Maryland they represented 25 percent; and in the lower Eastern Shore area, 28 percent of the total population. Most of the Negroes of these regions lived in rural areas; in Southern Maryland 91 percent, and in the lower Eastern Shore, 77 percent of the Negro population was classified as rural.

Of the 41,275 farms in Maryland, 4,218 were operated by Negroes in 1945; of these, 2,429 were owned. The value of their land and buildings in 1945 was \$16,243,864. In this study, Negroes owned 57.6 percent of the farms they operated.

Tobacco was the major source of income in Southern Maryland, with 90 percent of the farmers producing the crop. On the Eastern Shore, 42.6 percent of the farms were classified as truck farms; 36.0 percent, part-time; 8.3 percent, cash-grain; and 5.5 percent were dairy and livestock farms, respectively.

Most of the farm houses were unpainted, with few modern conveniences for storing and preparing food, doing laundry, or sewing clothes. Few of the homes had bathroom facilities. A small percentage of the families received newspapers, magazines or agricultural bulletins; however, 65 percent had radios. The church was reported as the center of community activity and offered the best channel for reaching Negro farm people.

Rural non-farm Negroes needed extension service assistance in the

production and preservation of food, in home furnishing and management and as a means of promoting community social and recreational facilities. Most of the non-farm families had gardens and, in general, processed more food for winter use than was done by farm families. The degree of deterioration of non-farm houses occupied by Negroes was judged according to the condition of the roof and foundation. The roof leaked on 21.2 percent of the houses, and 10.4 percent had crumbling foundations. Families with low incomes lived under adverse conditions, 40 percent reporting leaky roofs and 93 percent having no bathroom facilities.

Rural Negro families reported that 26 percent received help from either the Extension Service or from the vocational agriculture or home economics teachers. In many cases the people recognized the help received but did not associate it with a particular agency. Persons in the higher income groups frequented the clinics, attended meetings and received educational help from the Extension Service, but the low income groups were not being reached.

